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coast of British Columbia, in about latitude 54° north, where there are fine groves of it, it is sawn into lumber and sent to Victoria, where it meets a ready sale among the cabinetmakers, as it takes a fine polish and works beautifully. Most of the prettily polished discs and little cylinders used by the Indians in gambling are made either from this wood or from that of *Acer macrophyllum.* It is also valuable for ship- or boat-building. The wood of *T. gigantea* is whitish, but in its fresh state is yellower; hence the name yellow cypress applied to it. It is light, tough, durable and easily worked, and, in addition, has a pleasant fragrance. On this account the Russians about Sitka used to call it *dushnik*, or 'scented wood.' It was at one time exported to China, and returned marked with Chinese characters, which warranted it as "real Chinese camphor-wood," puissant for many purposes, and a sovereign remedy against moths in drawers! In repairing old Fort Simpson, the only log found sound after twenty-one years' trial of those used for under-pinning was a stock of this.—*The Garden.*

Botanical Literature.

Mushrooms of America, Edible and Poisonous. Edited by Julius A. Palmer, Jr. Published by L. Prang & Co., Boston.

This is a collection of twelve colored charts of edible and poisonous toadstools prepared for popular use rather than for students of science. All technical terms are therefore as far as possible avoided. The fungi illustrated are the more common edible species and such dangerous and suspicious ones as might be confounded with those given as esculent. Each chart contains a good description of the fungus or fungi illustrated, and, in the case of the esculent species, the best methods of preparing them for the table. The illustrations are in every case very true to nature, and by far the most accurate of the kind that we have ever seen.

While there is a large number of persons actively engaged in the scientific study of fungi in this country, there are few persons who have studied these plants solely with a view to ascertaining their edible or poisonous properties. Among the few who have done so is the editor of this collection, who has devoted more than ten years to experiment in this field of research. Of his ability to prepare such a work, then, there can be no doubt.

We do not agree with Mr. Palmer that the terms "mushroom" and "toadstool" "are both applied with equal reason to any fleshy fungus," and that they should be used as synonyms, "like the corresponding terms 'plant' and 'vegetable,' or 'shrub' and 'bush.'" Toadstool is a very useful general designation for fungi of the order Agaricini and the genus *Boletus*, but the name mushroom should be restricted to *Agaricus campestris*, to which it was transferred in early times from another edible species, *Agaricus Georgii*, Fr. (*A. Mouceron*, Secr.) Should these charts receive a welcome from the public, it is the intention of the publishers to furnish a supplement, from time to time, under Mr. Palmer's supervision, until the illustrations comprise all or nearly all of the edible fungi of America.

Bulletin of the Iowa Agricultural College, issued by the Department of Botany, Nov. 1884. Charles E. Bessey, Ph.D., Professor of Botany. 8vo, pp. 174.

A Revision of the North American Melicæ. By F. L. Scribner. 8vo., pamph., pp. 10, with one plate. From *Proceedings* of Philada. Acad. Nat. Sciences.

Thirty-fifth and Thirty-sixth Annual Reports on the State Museum of Natural History. By the Regents of the University of the State of New York. (Containing the Reports of the Botanist, Chas. H. Peck) Albany: Wells & Parson Co. 1884.

Recherches anatomiques sur les organes végétatifs de l' Urtica dioica, L. Par A. Gravis, Bruxelles: Librairie Médicale et Scientifique de A. Manceux, 1885. 4to, pp. 234, plates 23.

Catalogue of Musci and Hepaticæ of North America, north of Mexico. Arranged by Clara E. Cummings (of Wellesley College) Natick, Mass: Howard & Stiles. 1885. 8vo, pamph. pp. 24.

Proceedings of the Torrey Club.—The regular meeting of the Club was held Tuesday evening, May 12th, the President in the chair and twenty-four persons present.

Mr. Schrenk exhibited mounted specimens of the seeds of *Impatiens fulva* having three cotyledons. Dr. Britton exhibited some flowers of *Gaylussacia resinosa* and *Andromeda Mariana*, which were greatly enlarged through the hyphæ of an *Exobasidium.*

Dr. Kunzé exhibited a growing specimen of a large-bulbed species of *Ornithogalum* from Cape Colony. Mr. E. P. Bicknell read some notes upon cleistogamy in *Lamium amplexicaule;* Dr. Newberry presented a note upon derivation in *Pinus edulis* and *P. monophylla;* and Dr. Britton read a description of a new variety of *Veronica Anagallis*, and exhibited numerous dried specimens of it from various localities.

Four persons were elected active members, and one, a corresponding member.

At the regular meeting held Tuesday evening, June 9th, the President occupied the chair, and twenty-one persons were present.

Reports upon the field excursions that had been held were made by various members who had participated in them.

Mr. Schrenk showed young plants of *Impatiens fulva* with three cotyledonary leaves.

Dr. Newberry made some remarks upon the fossil flora of the Berea Grit of Ohio, and exhibited specimens of a *Lepidodendron* and *Spirophyton* belonging thereto. In regard to the drift of Ohio, Dr. Newberry said that a remarkable feature was the quantity of red-cedar wood scattered through it, much of which retained its well known fragrance and color.

On motion, the Club adjourned to the second Tuesday in September.